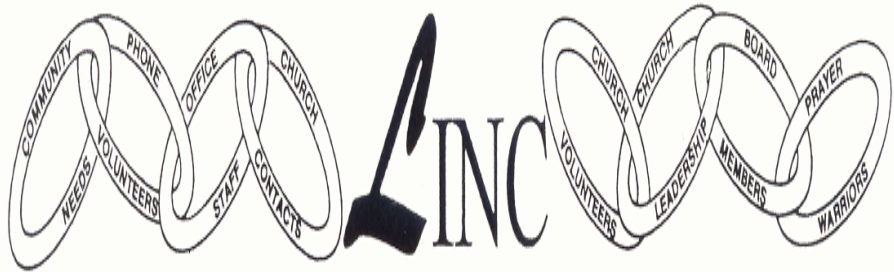




Love INC  
Love In the Name of Christ



VOLUME XXIII ISSUE IV

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## It Takes a Village ...

Pat wasn't exactly eager to take on the job of moving the young woman to her new apartment, but she decided that if she didn't do something, young Terrie\* would end up homeless. The good news was that Terrie had managed to get subsidized housing and could now have her own place instead of being crammed into one room in someone else's home. But, the challenge was to get her there.

So Pat gathered a few items donated to Love INC, put them in her truck, and headed over to pick up Terrie. Pat loaded her truck with most of Terrie's possessions — a bed, a TV, and some other odds and ends. They had to scramble for a car seat for Terrie's tiny little girl.

Pat was perplexed, however, after moving the bed and TV into the apartment. Terrie had no idea how to put a box spring and mattress on the floor to create a

bed. She had put the box spring upside down (wooden slats up) with the mattress on top. In trying it out, she said that she found it rather bumpy! Pat was very loving and patient as she demonstrated the proper way to position a box spring.

Then she showed Terrie a lot of other things she might need to know, such as how to store things in the refrigerator and how to keep other items out of the little girl's reach.

But Pat wasn't finished. She then went on a hunt for some more furniture and found a sofa and chair through Love INC. Pat picked up those items, then a small table and a toddler bed.

Once she was satisfied that Terrie had adequate furniture, Pat started mobilizing neighbors and relatives to look after Terrie on an on-going basis. She arranged for her sister to take the girl to church. And she even

arranged for others to stop by every few days to visit.



Pat knows that there is more to be done, but she believes she has made a good start. We at Love INC don't just believe she's made a good start — we *know* it! We have dozens of young ladies just like Terrie, waiting for someone to take an interest in them.

We thank the Lord for Pat and her church, **Shiloh Baptist Church**, and we encourage others who are like Pat to contact Love INC and see how they might serve the Lord and make an impact in someone's life ■

*\* Names of those served have been changed throughout the newsletter to protect confidentiality*

## Two Amazing Students!

Charlotte and Katie are first-year Christian medical students assigned to Love in the Name of Christ by the University of Virginia Medical School. They have

enthusiastically jumped in, visiting many of our clients.

Their visits are twofold: first they are able to serve their Lord by

bringing the love of Christ to the folks they visit; and secondly they are able to see, in their home environment, the kinds of people they might see later in

their clinics or practices. The students have the opportunity to hear, first hand, the medical experiences of ordinary people.

The Love INC staff works to find the right items for new interns, such as Charlotte and Katie, to give as “door openers” when they introduce themselves to a client. One client had wanted a “throw” and some “whatnots.”

The throw blanket was fairly easy to find among the donations brought by many kind churches. The whatnots were a bit perplexing, though. What were they? Finally, between all the staff and the students, we decided that a whatnot was what we knew as a “knickknack.”

Another client needed some incontinent-care items. Donated food is always a welcomed sight. Other welcomed gifts were the boxes of Woolite samples donated by a local establishment.

So the two med students delivered two boxes of Woolite detergent and two pillows to one lady and stayed for a pleasant visit. While there, the lady received a visit from an acquaintance who said he had come to bring her flowers. The client identified him as a con artist. She took the flowers and told him to leave, saying she could take care of herself.

Additionally, the mail arrived while the students were there and the client shared that she had joint custody of her grandson. She asked for help reading a letter that reported her grandson had missed excess days of school. They decided that her daughter would call the school

about this. They listened to “Blurred Lines” on the stereo but mostly chatted during the visit.

Charlotte and Katie gave another woman a much-needed ride to the Verizon store. This woman had been seriously ill with diabetes and lost all her toes and several of her fingers when her bones became infected. She now has an aide and is considered a fall risk.

But their introduction to this hardy soul came as she brought her motorized wheelchair down the middle of the road at the side of the Love INC building. She had an old black umbrella attached to her wheelchair and fixed over her head. “I ride down the turn lane so no one will hit me!” she said.



The mischievous grin on her face only grew bigger as the students contemplated her method of transportation.

The woman explained that she was on her way to the Verizon store to resolve a problem with her phone. The students offered her a ride rather than risking her life and limb disguising herself as a motor vehicle.

After the Verizon trip, they followed her home to her apartment. She told them that she had recently been hospitalized due to acute head pain and that the doctor had prescribed pain medications. She told them that she had also returned from the eye doctor with a good prognosis. The students visited for

about an hour as they got to know their client, during which time she showed them pictures and then they did her laundry.

The students’ third visit was to a young woman who was blind from diabetes. This woman later called Love INC asking that the students come again as she was going in for surgery to have her eye removed. They visited again as requested and delivered some laundry detergent as well.

They sat in her bedroom, talking about the woman’s life with diabetes, her family history, her blindness, and her plans for the future. And they met her companion/caregiver who has been her friend for the past 6 years. This young woman mentioned that she might be moving to Atlanta in the near future, but there were no concrete plans for that.

The young woman said she recently went to the hospital for chest pain but was unsatisfied with the care she received and said that she did not believe the doctor’s explanation of her symptoms (he said that the chest pain was caused by a 2-year-old blood clot). The med students couldn’t solve all her problems, but they learned that sometimes, just giving a concerned ear to a problem works wonders for the soul.

Love INC is fortunate to have individuals like Charlotte and Katie. They are the ones — *you* are the ones — who serve the Lord by being so generous with your time. We thank them, and we thank you! ■

## Even a Cup of Cold Water — Mt 10:42

She came into the Love INC office unannounced and without an appointment demanding that someone help her family get a motel room or another place to live. The girl was thin and scantily clad with poorly done tattoos scattered about her body. She had obviously not bathed in some time, her hair was matted, and the strong smell of cigarettes permeated her clothes.

The others straggled in after her: an obese woman in a wheelchair, her infected feet bound in bandages; and a young man in a very dirty T-shirt, the woman's son. The woman in the wheelchair was clutching a small terrier that smelled worse than all the others put together.

She said the dog was a "service dog" in training, and she hung on to the dog as though it was the only hope she had. "We can't go to the Salvation Army because of the dog," explained the girl whose name was Lorrie. "We can't go to the Haven either because of the dog," she added.

"Indeed," I thought, surveying this scene. We almost sent them away with appropriate referrals, but the Lord seemed to say, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat," as in Matthew 14:16. So first we asked our new intern to get ice water for each of them. Matthew 10:42 says "If anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones...." That would be a good starting point.

It was difficult to follow the whole story with each person interject-

ing comments and the dog busy doing dog things. Finally we found out the essential bits of information: they were staying at a local campground. They had very little money left. They each received SSI for their respective disabilities, but the money arrived at different times and they never had enough money at one time to get into an apartment, although they might not have afforded rent even if all their checks came at the same time.

The older woman, their mother Jen, showed us her medical papers from a recent hospital discharge. Thankfully, she was covered by Medicaid as she was prescribed a dozen different medications. Josh, the son, said he was insulin-dependent like his mother.

So what does an office do with a nightmarish situation like this? Help in every way we are able. We found a sleeping bag, pillows, extension cords, a small fan, assorted food, paper plates and napkins, clothes, even some personal care items and nail polish.

Soon there were four boxes of goods packed into their vehicle. Before they left, each person got a hug, and we prayed with the group. We also found a volunteer family from **Grace Community Church** to bring a large tent, and a camp stove, in a way to minister to the family.

Here is the church family's follow-up report: When we got to their campsite, Jen was sitting on the tailgate of the van. Her son was asleep in the screen tent and her daughter Lorrie was

asleep in the van.

Jen was very pleased with the tent and other

equipment, and also very appreciative of the help they'd received at Love INC.



But we were shocked at the living conditions. Although they had access to a bath house and electricity, they had very little space to keep things clean and dry. The van was full of their belongings, but they also had things in the screen tent, which had no floor, so it would be impossible to keep any of their possessions dry.

During our stay, Jen kept trying to make her children get up (not sure if they were really asleep or just too tired to do anything, or too embarrassed). Jen said that she'd never thought she would fall so low seven years ago. She told us quite a bit of what led to her current circumstances — I have no reason to doubt her, but I also know that we were hearing her version of the story.

Jen said that she was given a lump-sum disability payout (in the last couple of years, I think) of \$3,000. She said that she went to Dress Barn, which was going out of business, and spent all, or most, of the money there, buying clothes because she knew that it would be a long time until she could afford to get more. (Boy, do I — Susan — wish she'd talked to someone before doing that!)

She seemed to have believed that she had used the money wisely because of the amount of clothing she was able to buy, and we weren't about to say anything. Nothing could be done at that point. Of course, most of the clothing was in a storage unit and she couldn't retrieve it, or her other belongings, until she paid the hotel owner for back rent.

Jen then said that the woman she had been sharing the place with left without paying the bill while Jen was in the hospital and that the woman also had thrown a lot of Jen's things out into the parking lot.

She spoke about her mother, who died within the last couple of years, and the fact that no one would help her with travel expenses to go and deal with the funeral — no one but her adopted daughter Loretta (who evidently couldn't provide enough).

Jen also said that she knew her mother had a life insurance policy, but didn't know where to find

it and didn't know which company it was with, etc. As a result, there was no money to pay for burial or a spot in a cemetery. Jen said that she wanted to get her mother out of storage (along with her clothing), so we're supposing she meant her mother's ashes.

Jen spoke about being willing to do any sort of job, no matter how menial, but said she had to get healthy first. She also spoke bitterly about her experience with one of the hospitals — that they wouldn't treat her, and told her that a patch of black skin did not need any sort of treatment. She said that the hospital put a non-treatment order on her so that she couldn't get help there anymore.

I don't know if the hospital simply grew weary of her frequent visits to the ER or if she had simply become belligerent.

In that visit, we didn't say much at all, just listened. We found it hard to leave, as she seemed to really enjoy having someone to talk to, but after about three "We need to go now's," we shook

hands with her and left.

This family has so many needs; I didn't even know how to begin. I was thinking it would be helpful if a church's small group could "adopt" the family and help them find a place to live, jobs for Jen's children, and decent medical care. And I knew that several people would need to be involved so as to avoid burn out.

**Endnote:** Love INC had sent the family to The Haven for Rapid Re-Housing Funding, but they seemingly did not qualify. The next thing we heard was that they were being evicted from the campsite. We called law enforcement for verification of the crime that had possibly taken place and were amazed at the response we received. As a result of the sheriff's recommendation, we made the difficult decision not to advocate to churches for further assistance.

Through years of experience, we have learned that sometimes all we can do as Christians is serve until the Lord says, "You have done all you can...I'll take it from here." ■

## They Really Care About Us!

**G**eorge and Patty have several "extra" children, who are the recipients of their devoted love and care. No one is entirely sure if these are grandchildren or other relatives, but these two precious people go to great lengths to make sure these youngsters get a good education and other help as needed.

But, the family had run into hard times. Because one of the older boys had become difficult for

Patty to handle and she had to call upon her husband to come deal with the young man all too frequently, George lost his last job. And, without his income, they struggled. Furthermore, with his prison record, it was difficult to find another job.

So, Love INC tried to get a number of volunteers involved with the family. One big help is that they have a 'slot' at the Loads of Love Laundry, a ministry of **Belmont Baptist Church** and the

volunteers working there have become quite fond of the family.

One day George came into the office to ask if a staff member would assist him in applying for a job online. The Love INC staff was happy to help this "gentle giant" of a man fill out his applications.

In the meantime, Patty asked if perhaps we had a television we could give her. One of her more rambunctious younger children

had pulled their television over and it was in little pieces. While there wasn't one at that time, the staff was able to find some games and toys to, hopefully, provide some meaningful activity until the TV could be found.

A few days later, Roger and his wife, Donna — actively involved in ministry at **First Presbyterian Church** — came into the office. They asked if our staff would be willing to find a home for a large older television and the staff in unison, gave an immediate reply "George and Patty!"

So Roger and Donna were given

the address and telephone number and several days later they called to report that George and Patty had received the television. Then they asked if perhaps George and Patty might appreciate an older solid wood entertainment center.

The staff thought the entertainment center with the doors that closed would be quite helpful with the younger children and encouraged Roger to contact the family again. A week later Roger reported that some painters had moved the heavy piece to the home of George and Patty, adding that he was glad to

have a new home for both items. Patty had more to say about the encounter. "Those people were really good to us," she said. "They called us just to find out how we were doing. Then his wife, Donna, called just to talk to me! I mean, they really like us, they really care about us. They kept my phone number just so they could call us. Those people can have our number anytime. They care about us."

Ah, the love of Christ shines through even a simple furniture donation. ■

## Did You Miss the Murder at Rasmussen Manor?

On November 7<sup>th</sup>, Love INC hosted its first "Mystery Dinner." Approximately 200 guests, representing 24 churches, arrived at the Doubletree Hotel for the fun.

After the meal, 12 teenagers from **Maple Grove Christian Church**, directed by Andrea Luu, began going from table to table acting the part of the various "characters" at the "Rasmussen Manor." Each character was a potential "suspect" for the murder of their host.

As each told their side of the murder that had taken place, each could be "bribed" to give bigger, better "clues" as to the identity of the killer. Every few minutes a bell would ring and the teens would go to another table to tell their tale to a new audience.



As each table thought they had figured out the mystery, someone would go to the front and register their guess as to the suspect.

There was loud laughter and shouts of "We'll give you (an amount of) money if you will tell us." The teens hammed up as they became their characters, inviting still more laughter. Some dinner guests even tried to bribe the staff and board members, most of whom were as much in the dark as they were.

The game continued until either the 90 minute clock reached zero or when all tables turned in their answer. The challenge was to be the first to turn in the correct answer but not too soon that you might miss critical clues of the case. In the end, table eleven was the first to guess the identity of the murderer.

The solution certainly was a sur-

prise to most of the people attending. The whole evening was truly not your ordinary banquet! Laughter filled the room on numerous occasions, an obvious indicator that fun was being had by all.

Again, the kids from Maple Grove Christian Church, who portrayed the suspects, did an awesome job of portraying their characters. There were so many compliments on their performances. They really became their character and had an answer no matter what question was thrown at them. And the most asked was: "When are you doing another Mystery Dinner?" If there is another one, you won't want to miss it!

The Doubletree was very accommodating and made the experience an extremely pleasant one. Oh yes, each member of the winning table was awarded a Sherlock Holmes cap and a magnifying glass! ■



Love INC

Love In the Name of Christ

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